

Information for Students Affected by the Closure of Stone Academy in Connecticut

State of Connecticut officials informed the U.S. Department of Education (ED) that Stone Academy (Stone) ceased offering instruction effective February 15, 2023. The closure includes all online programs and campuses in East Hartford, Waterbury, and West Haven, CT.

Options for Affected Students

- Transfer to another school.
- Apply for a closed school loan discharge.

Contact the Connecticut Office of Higher Education to explore your transfer options; learn how to get your academic records; and find out if your state has a tuition recovery fund.

Transferring Credits to Another School

Your state agency can provide information about schools where you may be able to transfer your credits or hours to complete a comparable program. You also may want to visit collegescorecard.ed.gov to explore transfer options and find the program that's right for you. Contact individual schools for transfer credit or hour policies.

If you do transfer into a comparable program offered by another school, that school will evaluate your transcript, course work, and hours completed in the subjects covered in your course of study, and will decide how much credit to give you for the work you've already completed, as well as identify the coursework you need to complete your program of study. It is up to the new school to decide how much credit to give you. You are not required to transfer to another school.

ED is working with officials to process student records as soon as possible, so that transfer schools can start assessing students for transfer and for any remaining student aid eligibility. ED will work with your school officials to make sure appropriate federal student aid funds are returned and that your unearned Federal Pell Grant and loan funds are restored for future eligibility.

Remember, if you transfer the credits you've earned at your closed school toward a comparable program at another school and you complete or are in the process of completing that program, you will not be eligible to receive a closed school loan discharge for those credits.

Obtaining Your Academic Records

If you transfer to another school to continue your education, you may be asked to provide a copy of your transcript to your new school. The records also may be useful in substantiating your claim for a closed school loan discharge. Contact the Connecticut Office of Higher Education for additional information regarding your records.

Connecticut Office of Higher Education

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 707
Hartford, CT 06103-1841
Phone: 860-947-1800
Website: ctohe.org

Current Closed School Discharge Criteria

There are certain criteria for a closed school loan discharge, and there are certain steps you need to take to apply for a student loan discharge.

If you're a student loan borrower (or a parent who took out PLUS loans on behalf of a student), you may be eligible for a 100% discharge of federal student loan funds borrowed to attend your school under any of these circumstances:

- Your school closed while you were enrolled, and you did not complete your program because of the closure. If you were on an approved leave of absence for purposes of the federal student aid programs, you are considered to have been enrolled at the school.
- If your loans were first disbursed **before** July 1, 2020, and you withdrew on or after Oct. 18, 2022, which is 120 days before Stone closed.
- If your loans were first disbursed on or **after** July 1, 2020, and you withdrew on or after Aug. 19, 2022, which is 180 days before Stone closed.

A closed school loan discharge normally applies only if you withdrew (without completing your program) shortly before your school's closure date. New ED regulations taking effect on July 1, 2023 make it even easier to receive a closed school discharge.

More Information About Current Closed School Loan Discharge Criteria

Under current ED regulations, you are **not** eligible for discharge of your loans if your school closed and **any** of the following is true:

- Except in exceptional circumstances, you withdrew more than
 - **120** days before the school closed, if your loans were first disbursed **before** July 1, 2020; or
 - **180** days before the school closed, if your loans were first disbursed **on or after** July 1, 2020.
- You completed all of your course work for your program before your school closed, even though you have not received a diploma or certificate.
- You are completing a comparable educational program at another school
 - through a teach-out;
 - by transferring academic hours earned at your closed school to another school; or
 - by any other comparable means.

If your new school doesn't count your closed school's credits or if you decide not to use your credits toward completion of a comparable program at another school, you may instead apply for a closed school loan discharge of the federal loans you took for your closed school credits.

The Loan Discharge Process

To apply for a closed school loan discharge, you can do either of the following:

- Complete the closed school loan discharge application sent to you by your servicer, or complete the closed school loan discharge application at [StudentAid.gov/closedschoolform](https://studentaid.gov/closedschoolform), and **return it to your loan servicer**.
- Contact your loan servicer for more information before you complete the application. A list of loan servicers is available at studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/servicers.

You **must** send your Closed School Loan Discharge Application to your federal student loan servicer. To find out who your loan servicer is, log in to your account at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

- Be sure to continue to make any required payments on your loan while your discharge application is being processed.
- If you do not meet the criteria for a loan discharge, you will be informed by your loan servicer and will need to continue making payments on your loans based on the terms of your promissory note.

Visit [StudentAid.gov/closedschool](https://studentaid.gov/closedschool) for additional information about closed school loan discharges.

Your Federal Pell Grant Eligibility

The amount of Federal Pell Grant funds you may receive over your lifetime is limited by federal law to be the equivalent of six years of Pell Grant funding. Since the maximum amount of Pell Grant funding you can receive each year is equal to 100%, the six-year equivalent is 600%. For more information, visit [StudentAid.gov/pell-leu](https://studentaid.gov/pell-leu). If you are eligible for the restoration of Pell Grant eligibility, your restoration will be done automatically; there is nothing for you to do. If your Pell Grant eligibility has been restored for the current award year, and/or you have regained eligibility bringing you under the 600% limitation, you will be notified by email.

Accessing Information About Your Federal Student Aid

If you need to access information about your federal student aid history, log in to your account at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

If you filed a FAFSA® form identifying Stone as the institution you would be attending and need the information forwarded to another institution, visit fafsa.gov to make changes to your filed application.

We Are Here to Help

ED is committed to helping you as you plan the next steps in continuing your education. We encourage you to avoid paying for services that we offer for free. Please visit [StudentAid.gov/closures](https://studentaid.gov/closures) to view answers to common questions asked by students of other closed schools. For help understanding the information in this fact sheet, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).